



Washington, D.C. 20505

82-40812

Mr. Abraham S. Becker
Mr. Arnold L. Horelick
The Rand Corporation
1700 Main Street
Santa Monica, CA 90406

Dear Messrs. Becker and Horelick:

I appreciate your taking the time to indicate your concern about an issue that has been of concern to us here at the Agency for some time. I would quickly point out, however, that our decision to curtail release to the public of unclassified CIA reports was made only after careful consideration of the points raised in your letter of January 4.

With respect to the first paragraph of your letter, strengthening public understanding and professional knowledge of national security issues--although a laudable goal--is not one of the missions of the CIA. Secondly, while I am concerned about the morale of Agency analysts, we seek (and have) analysts who consider themselves intelligence professionals first rather than econometricians, political scientists, or academicians. Finally, I do not believe that the quality of our research and analysis is significantly impaired because of our decision. Indeed, our capabilities are enhanced by not having to devote considerable resources to preparing and defending unclassified analysis. Moreover, we are working aggressively to avoid isolation through expanded and more frequent contact with appropriately cleared outside experts like yourselves.

On balance, I decided that the risks inherent in public release of intelligence reports--the threat to intelligence sources and methods, the resulting disappearance of certain open sources of information, the threat to our own objectivity, the potential for political controversy and diplomatic embarrassment, the reluctance of other intelligence services to cooperate in the face of such openness and the resource costs--outweighed the possible benefits which you describe. I, therefore, decided to halt the release of unclassified analytic studies. Unclassified statistical and factual compilations on which much of the subsequent analysis is based are still available from the Agency, however, through the Document Expediting Project of the Library of Congress and the National Technical Information Service of the Department of Commerce.

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In closing, let me assure you that I favor Agency interaction with the outside professional community and greater participation by Agency employees in professional meetings as well as Agency sponsorship of such meetings--both to expose our analysis to the test of external scrutiny and to help rebuild the shrunken academic base of Agency analysts. I look forward to continuing cooperation with both of you in this vitally important endeavor.

Sincerely,

William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence

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18 JAN 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Horelick and Becker Letter on
Public Release of Unclassified Reports

Attached is a straightforward but courteous response to Arnold Horelick and Abraham Becker on their 4 January request that we reconsider our decision on public release of unclassified publications. The response has been coordinated with the Office of External Affairs and reflects the thinking that went into the ExCom decision of 2 July 1981.

LSI

Robert M. Gates
Deputy Director for Intelligence

Attachment:
As Stated

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